

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Ethan Barton
Sent: Thur 3/17/2016 1:54:44 PM
Subject: Navajo president comments

Hello,

I'm seeking EPA comment on some things Navajo President Russell Begaye told me in an interview about the Gold King Mine spill on the Navajo nation.

He told me that reported, successful Navajo suicides spiked since the spill, though he couldn't establish a direct correlation.

Begaye also said the EPA isn't holding up to its promises, isn't monitoring the soil and water as promised, and is using a water quality standard that allows for many more contaminants than what is typically allowed for agriculture and drinking. He noted that consistent monitoring and guidance is critical, as farmers will soon need to rely on the contaminated rivers as irrigation sources.

Begaye also said he doesn't expect the Navajo Nation and affected farmers will receive full compensation from the EPA for the spill, which he estimated to be about \$1 million.

My deadline is 1 pm today.

Thank you,

Ethan

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